



The Old Ironsides Report

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Thunderbolts Say Goodbye To One Of Their Own

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BAGHDAD IRAQ – The Forward Operating Base for the 2nd Battalion 70th Armor Regiment has been, as of late, a place of happy times with the awarding of medals for their performance during Operation Iraqi Freedom and a place of transition with the departure of Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Ingram and the arrival of Lieutenant Colonel Leopoldo Quintas. Now, a new emotion has been added to the menu for the 2-70th, sorrow at the loss of a fellow soldier.

Memorial services were held Tuesday morning at the Battalion headquarters for 1st Lieutenant Jonathan D. Rozier. Rozier was killed last Saturday in the Abu Garib market section of Baghdad when a rocket-propelled grenade struck him while his platoon was conducting a routine traffic control point. Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team and the 1st Armored Division gathered to say goodbye and remember a friend and fellow Rozier, a native of Katy, Texas and a recent graduate of Texas A&M University, had been with Bravo Company a little over a year and promoted to 1st Lt. Shortly before his death.

"When I think of a Texas Aggie, I think of the stereotypical Texas Aggie," Said Rozier's Battalion Commander, Lt. Col Leopoldo Quintas. "Loud and boisterous, someone who was headstrong. Well, I'd have to say Jon was the exception to that rule. He was quiet and unassuming. He led his soldiers both in peacetime and with distinction in war. He served side by side with them. He assumed their risks and dangers, and he endured their hardships, every step, every kilometer of the way."

It was Rozier's platoon of tanks from Bravo Company that was first across the berm that separates Kuwait and Iraq in the early hours of March 20th signaling the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). For his actions during the ground combat phase of OIF, 1st Lt. Rozier had recently been awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device for Valor by Major General David Petraeus, Commander of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) with whom 270th spent the majority of their time with during combat operations.

"Jon died doing what a platoon leader should do,"



A fellow soldier salutes the memory of 1st Lieutenant Jonathan D. Rozier. Rozier was killed when he was hit by a rocket propelled grenade while conducting traffic control in Baghdad.

said his company commander Captain D. Bradley Laauwe. "He was on the ground with his soldiers, setting the example and leading from the front. You can't ask anymore of a leader than to be out front with his soldiers." Capt. Laauwe then read a portion of a poem read at every Aggie muster for those who have fallen. "Softly call to muster, let comrades answer here. Their spirits hover 'round, as if to us bring cheer. Mark them present forever in your hearts, we'll meet again some other day. For there is no death but life eternal, for old friends such as they.

"Shortly after the conclusion of the ceremony, 3rd Brigade Commander, Colonel Russ Gold said the people who killed 1st Lt. Rozier would be found and brought to justice. "We are not fighting soldiers, because soldiers have honor," Gold said of the attackers. "We are engaged with criminals, who are immoral, have no honor, and contribute nothing to society but hatred and discontent. They are murderers, and only understand one thing, brute force, and that is just what they are going to get. I will use every resource available to find and capture the individuals responsible for this heinous crime".

The ceremony concluded with a roll call, the playing of taps and friends and fellow soldiers coming forward to pay their last respects. 1st Lieutenant Jonathan D. Rozier, 25, is survived by his wife Jessica and his 8-month-old son Justin.

NEWS

Bush Orders U.S. Troops to Liberia Coast

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush on Friday ordered an unspecified number of U.S. troops to be positioned off the coast of wartorn Liberia to assist West African peacekeeping forces. The forces will serve as peacekeepers and their role will be limited, Bush said. "We're deeply concerned that the condition of the Liberian people is getting worse and worse and worse," Bush told reporters in the White House Rose Garden. "Aid can't get to the people. We're worried about the outbreak of disease."

Bush Set to Welcome Abbas to White House

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush is registering his faith in Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas with a red-carpet welcome to the White House, a sharp contrast to Bush's shunning of Yasser Arafat for 2 1/2 years. Their Oval Office meeting and luncheon Friday could help shape Bush's strategy for advancing his proposal for establishment of a Palestinian state in 2005 and a peaceful accord with Israel.

Fire Evacuates Glacier National Park

WEST GLACIER, Mont. (AP) - A trio of wildfires roared unchecked through parched timber and into Glacier National Park, parts of which stood deserted Friday after a mass evacuation described as "the flow of traffic like rush hour in a large city." Even headquarters was empty at what's widely considered one of the national park system's crown jewels.

Boeing Barred From Future Rocket Work

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Air Force ruled that Boeing Co. broke the law by stealing a competitor's trade secrets and, as a penalty, took away seven military satellite launches that were to use Boeing rockets. The Air Force also indefinitely banned Boeing from bidding on future satellite-launching contracts.

Oddly Enough

Legendary Dog-Eating Catfish Dies

BERLIN (Reuters) - A giant catfish that ate a dog and terrorized a German lake for years has washed up dead, but the legend of "Kuno the Killer" lives on. A gardener discovered the carcass of a five-foot-long catfish weighing 77 pounds this week, a spokesman for the western city of Moenchengladbach said on Friday. Kuno became a local celebrity in 2001 when he sprang from the waters of the Volksgarten park lake to swallow a Dachshund puppy whole. He evaded repeated attempts to capture him. "He was our Loch Ness monster," said Uwe Heil, member of "Kuno's Friends," a local rock band named after the fish. Several fishermen identified the carcass as Kuno, but doubts linger.

SPORTS

Armstrong Loses 2 Seconds, Maintains Lead

SAINT-MAIXENT-L'ECOLE, France (AP) -- Lance Armstrong lost 2 seconds of his lead over rival Jan Ullrich in the Tour de France's 18th stage Friday, setting up a time-trial showdown for the title. With the overall standings so tight, the 2 seconds Ullrich gained could be crucial. At the least, they could give him a morale boost ahead of the time trial. "It's not important losing 2 seconds. I don't think the Tour will be decided by 2 seconds," Armstrong said.

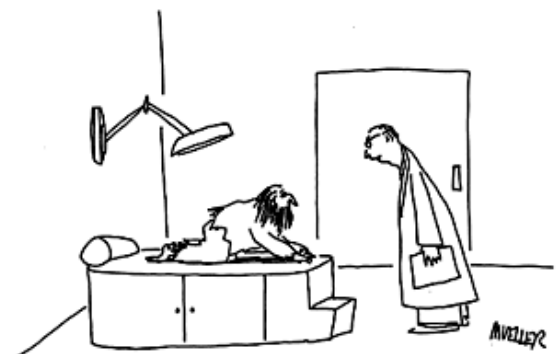
Judge Issues Gag Order in Bryant Case (AP) -

EAGLE, Colo. (AP) -- After revelations that Kobe Bryant's accuser was hospitalized last winter for mental health reasons, a judge issued a gag order on attorneys, witness and others involved in the sexual assault case, seeking to quell rumors and reports that could affect a trial.

Entertainment

Director John Schlesinger Dies at 77

LOS ANGELES (AP) - John Schlesinger, director of the Oscar-winning "Midnight Cowboy" and thrillers like "The Falcon and the Snowman" explored lonely underdogs in modern society, died Friday. He was 77. The British-born filmmaker had a debilitating stroke in December 2000, and his condition deteriorated significantly in recent weeks. He was taken off life support at Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs on Thursday and died early Friday, hospital spokeswoman Eva Saltonstall said.



"Drink plenty of fluids and stay out of the sun."

This Day in History: 26 July, 1847

Joseph Jenkins Roberts declared Liberia, formerly a colony of the American Colonization Society, an independent republic on July 26, 1847. He was elected the first president of the republic in 1848. A native of Petersburg, Virginia, Roberts immigrated to Liberia in 1829 at the age of twenty under the auspices of the American Colonization Society. The colonization scheme, controversial among blacks and whites alike from the outset, was conceived as an alternative to emancipation.